

# EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE

## Patent Abstracts of Japan

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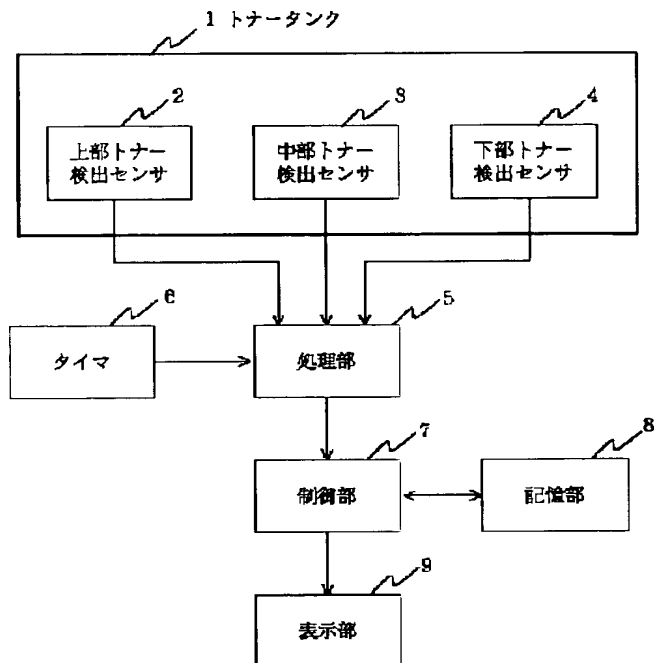
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SOFTWARE KK;

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TITLE : TONER EXHAUSTION TIME DISPLAY  
DEVICE FOR  
ELECTROPHOTOGRAPHIC  
RECORDER



ABSTRACT : PURPOSE: To display the recordable time until the toner is exhausted and to facilitate the judging of the timing of toner replenishment.

CONSTITUTION: An amount of toner remaining in a toner tank 1 is obtained in a processing part 5 at prescribed time intervals based on the detection signals from the upper, center and lower toner detecting sensors, 2, 3 and 4 respectively, and the command from a timer 6. Based on the amount of remaining toner obtained in the processing part 5 and the amount of remaining toner obtained before the prescribed time and stored in a storage part 8, a control part 7 estimates the recordable time until the toner is exhausted and makes a display part 9 to display it. The amount of remaining toner obtained in the processing part 5 is renewedly stored in the storage part 8 as the amount of remaining toner obtained before the prescribed time. By repeating the series of operations the recordable time is successively displayed. At a glance, an operator can see the recordable time left.

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